

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-10 MC-02 EB-07 AID-05 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SCCT-01 SAB-01 /125 W
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R 151615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3644

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0087

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SS, FR, MO

SUBJ: SAHARA: POLISARIO CLAIMS, FRENCH AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO,
ATROCITIES

1. ALGERIAN MEDIA JAN. 14-15 CARRY REPORTS THAT POLISARIO
HAS SABOTAGED BOU CRAA PHOSPHATE CONVEYER BELT AND
INFLECTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS.

A. BOU CRAA: CITING SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE, MEDIA
REPORT POLISARIO CLAIM THAT, ON JAN. 13, IT HAD SET FIRE
TO A SECTION OF CONVEYER BELT. SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS OF
BELT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PUT OUT OF SERVICE IN ORDER TO
AVOID FURTHER SPREADING OF FIRE.

B. MILITARY ACTIVITIES: F POLISARIO COMMUNIQUE
PUBLISHED JAN. 15 CLAIMS THAT DURING WEEK JAN. 1-7,
GUERRILLAS HAD KILLED 104 MOROCCANS, WOUNDED 100 AND TAKEN
15 PRISONER. SEVEN FRENCH CAPTIVES ALSO CLAIMED. DURING
SAME PERIOD, 17 MOROCCAN TRUCKS, 2 JEEPS, 3 TANKS AND
1 HELICOPTER SAID TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. FOR
MAURITANIANS DURING SAME PERIOD COUNT WAS 18 DEAD, 26

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WOUNDED AND 2 PRISONERS.

2. PURCHASE OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT: CITING "AVIATION MAGAZINE" AND LE FIGARO, MEDIA REPORT THAT LAST DECEMBER FRENCH AND MOROCCANS SIGNED AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH FRANCE WILL SELL MOROCCO 25 MIRAGE F-1 PLANES, TO BE DELIVERED IN 1980. ARTICLE ADDS THAT MOROCCANS REQUESTED A FURTHER 50 MIRAGE F-1'S FROM FRENCH.

3. ATROCITIES: ON JAN. 14, ALGERIAN TELEVISION CARRIED FILMS TAKEN IN "LIBERATED AREAS" OF SAHARA BY ONE OF ITS CORRESPONDENTS. PRESS JAN. 15 ALSO CARRIED LONG EXPOSE ON GOINGS ON IN SOUTHERN SAHARA. BOTH PIECES OF REPORTING SEEMED INTENDED TO BRING HOME TO ALGERIAN PUBLIC, IN MOST GRAPHIC TERMS POSSIBLE, BRUTALITY OF MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS VIS-A-VIS SAHARAN POPULATION AND DETERMINATION OF SAHRAOUI MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO FIGHT ON AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE VICTORY.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND RECENT REPORT OF POLISARIO ACTION AGAINST BOU CRAA OPERATION. NOT CLEAR TO US IF COMPLEX IS FUNCTIONING AGAIN FOLLOWING EXTENDED VACATION GIVEN ITS WORKERS FOLLOWING AID EL-KEBIR HOLIDAY IN EARLY DECEMBER.

5. POLISARIO MILITARY CLAIMS AS USUAL IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY FROM HERE. LATEST COMMUNIQUE, UNLIKE MOST OF ITS PREDECESSORS, REPORTS ON EVENTS IN QUITE RECENT PAST. PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUES OFTEN DISCUSSED "NEWS" WHICH WAS AS MUCH AS A MONTH OLD.

6. POLISARIO SEEMS TO BE HITTING FRENCH HARD. FIGURE OF SEVEN CAPTIVES MAY INCLUDE TWO "COOPERANTS" WHO DESCRIBED AS MILITARY BY ALGERIAN PRESS AND POLISARIO (ALGIERS 70) AND FIVE FRENCH YOUTHS WHO, WITH ONE OTHER PERSON OF UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY, DISAPPEARED WHILE ON YEAR-END EXCURSION IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO (LE MONDE, JANUARY 13). JANUARY 13 LE MONDE ALSO REPORTED THAT POLISARIO HAD CAPTURED TWO FRENCH ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS AND FOUR MOROCCAN WORKERS WHO WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BOU CRAA.

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7. "AVIATION MAGAZINE" STORY IS MOST SPECIFIC REPORT WE HAVE HAD OF FRENCH AGREEMENT TO SELL AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCANS. 1980 DELIVERY DATE APPEARS A BIT LATE TO SUIT IMMEDIATE MOROCCAN OBJECTIVES.

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Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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